Remarks

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 25-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 25, and 26 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I.   REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 13 AND 25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the second paragraph due to insufficient antecedent basis. These claims have been amended herein to address the Examiner's concerns. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II.   REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-7, AND 10-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,512 ("Macaulay"). Claims 1, 13, and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,416,831 ("Chewning"). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The inventions defined in independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 are related to methods and computer-readable media for displaying a soft key label or processing a selection made from a menu in general. Independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 have been amended herein to further clarify one of the features of the invention.

For example, independent claim 1 recites creating a message based on a menu selection, passing the message to a menu processing object, and creating an event based on the menu selection by the menu processing object. Claim 1 further requires, *inter alia*, that "*while* the plane display *is being changed*, the soft key is deactivated." According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention,

> "[W]hen the line plane changes, a "wiper" comes across the display area. During this animation, the soft keys are grayed out (for typically ¼ to ½ second) so that the user cannot use those keys. When the plane is displayed and the animation is complete, the key labels are displayed in an active state. This prevents invalid events from occurring from having a user press soft keys before the system is ready to process the event."

See, for example, page 25, lines 9-15 of the present specification. Other independent claims 13, and 25-26 have recitations similar to those of claim 1. For example, independent claim 13 requires that "while the text strings are being changed, the one of the plurality of the

Appln. No.: 09/480,644
Atty Docket: CISCP118/1662

7

soft key label sets is deactivated." Support for the amendments is found at, for example, page 25, lines 9-15. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above-identified aspect of the invention recited in independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26, i.e., that the soft key is deactivated *while* the plane display *is being changed*, or while the text strings *are being changed*.

In the Macaulay patent, *after* a triggering event occurs (e.g., calling function WAUdisplay), a soft key button is relabeled (e.g., relabeled as "INFO"). See, Macaulay, column 8, lines 1-13. However, Macaulay's sequence of displaying different labels does not suggest in any way the claimed temporary deactivation *while* the display is being changed. In fact, the Macaulay patent is not concerned with the time period during which the display is being changed. Macaulay merely describes various relationships between one display before a change, and another display after the change. Macaulay is silent on a transition period between the two displays, during which a soft key is deactivated according to the present invention.

Similarly, the Chewning patent also fails to suggest the claimed temporary deactivation of a soft key *while* the plane display *is being changed*. The cited portions of the Chewning patent (e.g., column 28, lines 23-38) merely suggests a sequence of different displays triggered by a key press.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 are believed to be patentable over the cited art. The Examiner's rejections of the dependent claims are respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, all of these claims will not be argued separately. Other claims each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26, and therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 13, and 25-26.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
510-663-1100, ext. 245

Appln. No.: 09/480,644   9
Atty Docket: CISCP118/1662

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

Mr. Haruo Yawata is hereby given limited recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b) as an employee of Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP to prepare and prosecute patent applications wherein the patent applicant is the client of Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP, and the attorney or agent of record in the applications is a registered practitioner who is a member of Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP. This limited recognition shall expire on the date appearing below, or when whichever of the following events first occurs prior to the date appearing below: (i) Mr. Haruo Yawata ceases to lawfully reside in the United States, (ii) Mr. Haruo Yawata's employment with Beyer Weaver & Thomas, LLP ceases or is terminated, or (iii) Mr. Haruo Yawata ceases to remain or reside in the United States on an H-1 visa.

This document constitutes proof of such recognition. The original of this document is on file in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Expires: January 2, 2007

Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline